

Then we have Wilbur Ross. He is the nominee for Commerce. He is a billionaire. We have a Cabinet loaded with billionaires, despite how President-Elect Trump campaigned. Mr. Wilbur Ross is a billionaire with vast and complicated holdings. He just delivered his paperwork yesterday. His hearing is scheduled for tomorrow. The paperwork is very complicated. When you have \$1 billion, it is not just in U.S. treasures. But they are rushing forward. The committee needs some time to review those documents before a hearing. I am hopeful we can move it back.

Then there is the fact that tomorrow there are four hearings. We have asked the majority to space out the hearing schedule so that Members who sit on multiple committees can have time to prepare and attend all the hearings. That is going to be very difficult for many Members tomorrow.

We have tried to cooperate with my friend, the majority leader. These are not good signs. They don't bode well.

You can see why the President-elect and Republicans are trying to rush these nominees through. The President-elect promised to change the way America operates, to oppose elites and the rigged system, to clean the swamp, and to pay attention to working families. But now he is rigging the Cabinet with billionaires and bankers. It is exactly the opposite of what the President-elect campaigned on, so they are trying to get it done as quickly as possible—the less scrutiny, the better. They don't want these people exposed for who they are and what they represent. Oh, no, that is not fair to the American people. They deserve the chance to get a good look at these nominees.

Thank you, Mr. President.  
I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:15 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Georgia.

#### CBO ESTIMATE ON OBAMACARE REPEAL

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am delighted to follow the distinguished minority leader, who is a gifted orator, a brilliant legislator, and an expert in something called disparate impact. Disparate impact is where you take two facts that are extraneous and put them together for an appearance of an irregularity or an impropriety without any fact being true.

The statements made about the CBO estimate were accurate in what he said but wrong in the implication. He is accurate that CBO did say it would cost money if we didn't have a replacement for ObamaCare, which is the replacement being worked on as we speak right here today. Both are facts, but when put together the way he put them together, it makes it look as though we are spending money that we are not, in fact, spending at all.

The CBO estimate also does not include the impact of legislative and administrative action to stabilize individual markets. In the absence of making that consideration, of course it is going to be more costly. Those are both extraneous facts that, when put together, make the appearance of a crime, which just isn't there.

#### NOMINATION OF TOM PRICE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about my friend, Dr. TOM PRICE. In a way, I am glad the minority leader brought up Representative PRICE and brought up specific allegations that have been made against him so I can hopefully put some light on the misperception that those allegations made and, in fact, shine some positive light on a great nominee to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I have known TOM PRICE for 30 years of my life. He and his wife Betty are dear friends. Their son Robert is the age of one of my sons. He is a fine young man. TOM is a leader in our community, a leader in the Roswell United Methodist Church, the first-ever elected Republican majority leader of the State of Georgia Senate, the chairman of the Budget Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, former president of the study committee in the House of Representatives, and an all-around terrific individual who has a litany and liturgy of recommended approvals and improvements that have made the United States of America legislatively and legally much better.

TOM is a family man. I mentioned Betty and his son Robert. He is an accomplished professional. He is an orthopedic surgeon. He and his wife Betty met during their residencies at Grady Memorial Hospital. She is an anesthesiologist. TOM is an accomplished orthopedic surgeon.

TOM is one of those orthopedists who came together with a number of other orthopedists to form what is known as Resurgens Orthopaedics, the largest orthopedic practice in the Southeastern United States—one of the finest anywhere in the country.

TOM has worked tirelessly in the Republican Party, tirelessly on the Democratic-Republican bipartisan agreements that have been made, and tirelessly on behalf of his community.

He is a fine individual and is uniquely qualified to be the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This is an agency that will spend \$1 trillion of the

taxpayers' money on an annual basis. You want a man who has been chairman of the Budget Committee. You want a man who understands finances. You want a former legislator who knows how to get the job done. TOM PRICE is that man.

In fact, I am particularly well qualified to introduce TOM to this body and recommend him as Secretary of HHS because he replaced me when I left the House when I was elected to the Senate. He has been reelected six times. He served 6½ terms in the House of Representatives, and he has an extensive legal background, an extensive legislative background, and an accomplished background of conservative leadership for the United States of America. Most importantly, he has done so on many issues dealing with medicine, and why not? He is an expert in medicine.

I know a little bit about real estate. I authored legislation on real estate. That is what you do when you are in a profession and know a little about something Congress is looking at. But the allegations made by Senator SCHUMER—and being echoed in some of the media and papers around town—are just another example of taking disparate impact.

I want to talk to you a little about what Senator SCHUMER was talking about. He was talking about the purchase of Zimmer Biomet stock, 26 shares, worth \$2,674. That is what he was talking about. The two disparate facts that he put together to make a wrong were this: The purchase was made without TOM's knowledge because his account is managed by Smith Barney and Morgan Stanley. They manage his account. They make the decisions about what to buy. TOM doesn't make them. TOM found out about it and documented it on April 4, even though the purchase was made in March. He didn't even know the purchase had been made on his behalf until it was disclosed, which he did as he is required to do by the STOCK Act.

Every single fact brought up by the distinguished minority leader is a fact that is a required disclosure of the rules of the U.S. Senate to the Ethics Committee under the STOCK Act. So don't make this look like some sinister thing, and let's take it at face value. If you take it at face value, it was a purchase TOM didn't make; it was made on his behalf. It was a purchase we documented that he didn't know about until the 4th of April; the purchase was made in March. The purchase did not work to his benefit because the decision was not made by him.

He is like every other Member of the Senate and House who makes required disclosures of their activity because of the STOCK Act. TOM obeyed the law. TOM did what was right. What was done is right and is being made to look wrong only because of appearance but not because of fact. That is the wrong way to take on the consideration of any nominee of a President of the United States to be a Secretary of any part of the Cabinet.